

Rotary District 7780

Carolyn Johnson, District Governor

June 15, 2014

www.rotary7780.org ... or friend us on Facebook!

It's Not Too Late: Sign Up for the District Changeover

On Thursday evening, June 19, Rotarians from across the District will depart at 6:00* pm by ferry boat from Casco Bay Lines terminal in Portland for Peaks Island. The festivities at the Inn on Peak's Island are only a short distance away from the dock. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served on the island, and a cash bar will be available. The program will include swearing-in of new club presidents by incoming RI Director Julia Phelps. Tickets are \$50 per person, including ferry ride and food; registration is available on the District website: www.rotary7780.org. Join your Rotary friends in celebrating the end of one successful year and the beginning of the next!



Pihcintu Chorus Raising Funds to Build School in South Sudan



Pihcintu Multicultural Chorus, the youth group that performed so movingly at the District Conference, has several members whose families are refugees from war in Sudan. These young people know first-hand what it is like to spend all of one's waking hours simply trying to survive, with little thought to the luxury of school. And so the chorus has decided to raise money to build a school in South Sudan in honor of Malala Yousafzai — the Pakistani girl who the Taliban attempted to assassinate because of her desire to get an education. Already, the governor of a territory in South Sudan has donated the land upon which to build this school.

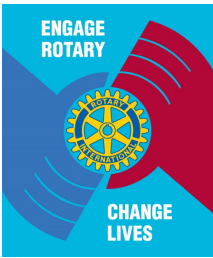
It will cost approximately \$27,000 to build a school to accommodate 250 students. The Chorus has raised over \$5,000 in just three months. Con Fullam, their director, writes: "I know that Rotarians have a long and storied history

of providing international aid around the world and so I am hoping that this project will spark an interest in some of the New England clubs. The successful completion of this school will not only provide tools for the future for many Sudanese children but it will also inspire each of the Pihcintu chorus members to live a life of outreach and community service as they will witness first-hand what small groups of dedicated people can accomplish." FMI: www.pihcintu.org. Con Fullam, the choral director, would be happy to speak to any club that might want to get involved.

Two Weeks Left to Make Your Donation Count!

This year, 13 clubs from our District used Rotary Foundation grants to support projects important to their local communities or an international community where they have a special interest. Six Rotarians traveled to Uganda on a cultural exchange — all supported by our previous support of the Foundation. Every Global Grant includes a bit of our individual contributions — dams to provide clean water in India, hearing aids and prosthetic hands in the Dominican, books and teacher training in Guatemala, medical equipment in Mongolia -- and so much more. The dollar amount isn't important; what is important is that we each support our Foundation on a continuing basis because it is our contributions today that determine the resources available for service projects *that we determine* in the future. So go to www.rotary.org and contribute today!





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Park Renamed for Rotary

Kennebunk Portside has provided major renovations — landscaping, maintenance, funding and labor — to a local park as part of United Way’s Day of Caring annually since 2009. This year, the Parks and Recreation Department recognized the club’s contributions by renaming the park in Rotary’s honor. Way to go, Kennebunk Portside.



Visioning Workshop Lays Groundwork for Future Success

The District Visioning Committee held its fourth District visioning workshop recently, with a strong showing from “visioned” clubs as well as participation by Governor Carolyn Johnson and the three governors-to-be who will follow her in that position. These workshops focus on how well clubs are converting the information gained during a visioning event into a club plan. We were able to draw on a recently completed survey of all clubs conducted by 7780 Assistant Governors to focus on current club status.



We reviewed the results of a survey that is available on the District [web-site](#). The survey clearly shows that roughly 50 percent of visioned clubs are making progress toward their goals and 50 percent are not. We discussed the fact that clubs with an effective strategic plan are successful clubs. They have sound leadership, are growing in membership and know where their funds are coming from and going to. The logical conclusion is that the success of Rotary in terms of membership and leadership is enhanced by clubs having a strategic plan. The meeting also focused on how best to help clubs that are struggling to develop a strategic plan. The challenges were bundled into three categories: Energy, Process and Organiza-

tion. The results of this discussion are available online.

We have assembled additional helpful information for any club that needs help as it moves from visioning to planning (V2P). These documents can also be found in the Visioning section of the District website.

The Visioning Committee would like to thank all attendees of our workshops. They have helped us to focus on reality rather than theory. We are excited to continue to vision or re-vision clubs as we work to strengthen District 7780. The consensus of the 26 participants is that these workshops should continue. Further, the recommendation is that the Visioning Committee develop a group of long-term planning support advisors to further aid clubs.

—Tony Wagner

Women Ride to End Polio Now

Five intrepid Rotarians and friends joined the 550 riders in the Women’s Ride on June 1. They are Ilse Yanis (**South Portland Sunrise**), friends Alison and Katie, Carolyn Bulliner (**Brunswick**), and DG Carolyn Johnson.



Sebago Lake Hosts Pizza Challenge

The **Sebago Lake** Club held its fourth annual Pizza Challenge with almost 400 folks attending. The winner for “Best Pizza” was the Crazy Stallion Pizza Pie Factory inside the Umbrella Factory Supermarket in Naples. If you’re in the neighborhood, stop in for a great pie and let them know you appreciate their support of Rotary projects.